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# Pennsylvania Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE

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## **PENNSYLVANIA SHEEP INVENTORY DOWN 4 PERCENT**

**HARRISBURG --** All sheep and lamb inventory in Pennsylvania on January 1, 2000 totaled 80,000, which was 4 percent lower than the previous year according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

Total inventory included 53,000 breeding ewes one year old and older, down 4 percent from the 55,000 on January 1, 1999. There were 10,000 replacement lambs, down 9 percent from last year. Rams one year old and older totaled 5,000, also unchanged from a year ago. Market sheep and lambs totaled 12,000 on January 1, 2000, unchanged from last year. Of this total, 10,000 were market lambs and 2,000 were market sheep. The 1999 lamb crop of 70,000 head was 3 percent less than 1998. The 1999 lambing rate was 127 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1999, up from 126 lambs per 100 ewes the previous year. An estimated 2,500 Pennsylvania farms raised sheep during 1999, down 4 percent from the previous year.

All sheep and lambs in the **United States** totaled 7.03 million head, down 3 percent from 1999 and 10 percent below two years ago. Inventory has slowly declined since 1942, when all sheep and lambs reached its peak of 56.2 million head. Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 5.16 million head on January 1, 2000, down 3 percent from 5.30 million head last year. Ewes one year old and older, at 4.23 million head, were 2 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2000, totaled 1.86 million head, down 3 percent from January 1, 1999. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. The 1999 lamb crop of 4.72 million head was down 6 percent from 1998. The 1999 lambing rate was 109 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1999, compared with 110 in 1998.